
Agency Information

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10142-10080

RECORD SERIES : CIA SEGREGATED COLLECTION

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 23-05-02

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM : CIA
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 00/00/0000
PAGES : 5

SUBJECTS :

MEXICO CITY STATION
DURAN, SILVIA

DOCUMENT TYPE : NOTES
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 1A; 1B
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 01/01/2003

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS : Box 12

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 53080 Date:
06-01-2017

C. Silvia Duran

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED
RELEASE ON

~~As Related~~

When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, the United States investigative agencies--FBI, CIA, Secret Service, etc.--were asked to investigate the assassination. When the Central Intelligence Agency Mexico City Station ^{Remembered} ~~remembered~~ that Lee Harvey Oswald had visited Mexico City during late September and early October, it reviewed the electronic surveillance files and found evidence of phone calls to the Soviet Embassy made September 27th, September 28th, and October 1st, that could have been made by Oswald. ⁶⁸⁵

Do the thought.

Review of the electronic surveillance files also produced ^{TELE} phone calls on September 27, 1963 between the Russian Consul and Silvia Duran, a secretary at the Cuban Consulate, where Oswald ^{WAS} ~~appeared to have been~~ discussed. ⁶⁸⁶

In addition, the Mexico City Station found a September 28, 1963 phone call from Silvia Duran to the Soviet Consulate, where Silvia Duran stated that there was an American citizen at the Cuban Consulate who had previously visited the Soviet Consulate. ⁶⁸⁷

A final phone call was made on October ¹/₈, 1963 where the "alleged" Oswald identified himself was also found. ⁶⁸⁸

This page is all one paragraph!

ON NOVEMBER 23, 1963

~~the~~ the Mexico City Station determined that it would request the Mexican government--with whom it had a good relationship--to arrest Silvia Duran (as Silvia Duran was a Mexican citizen, she did not have diplomatic immunity) because she might shed some light on the circumstances surrounding the assassination. ~~the~~

The Mexico City Station sent a note to the gober-nacion head, Luis Echevarria, with Silvia Duran's address, her mother's address, her brother's address, her license plate number, her home phone number, her place of work and a request that she be arrested immediately. 689

The Mexico City Station also suggested that Duran be held incommunicado until she could be questioned on the matter. * 690

The Mexico City Station did not receive prior authorization from CIA Headquarters to request the arrest of Silvia Duran by Mexican authorities. * 611
Headquarters feared that ~~the~~ a request ^{TO ARREST MS. DURAN} would jeopardize the clandestine relationship between certain Mexican government officials ^{AND} the CIA if it ^{was} disclosed that Americans were behind Duran's arrest. * 612 (Note written)

~~John Scelso~~
~~Jack Whitten~~, Chief of ~~Western Hemisphere~~ ^{THE MEXICO BRANCH}, ~~stationed~~ ^{at Langley Headquarters}
~~CIA~~ ^{Headquarters} ~~at Langley Headquarters~~, telephoned Winston Scott, the
~~CMV~~ ^{John Scelso} Mexico Chief of Station, requesting that Silvia Duran
not be arrested. ^{* 693} ~~(Ibid)~~ Scott told ~~Whitten~~ ^{Scelso} that he
could not rescind the request, and that Headquarters should
already have received a cable stating that Silvia Duran
had been arrested. ^{+ 694} ~~(Ibid)~~ After Winston Scott's con-
versation with ~~Jack Whitten~~ ^{John Scelso}, Scott called Luis Echevarria
and stated that the Mexico City Station desired that all
information received from Duran be forwarded immediately
to the Mexico City Station, and that her arrest and state-
ments not be communicated to any leftist groups. ^{695 +}

On November 27, 1963, the Mexican government for-
warded to the Mexico City Station a copy of Silvia Du-
ran's ten-page signed statement. ^{696 *} ~~(Ibid)~~ ~~See~~
~~Harvey Oswald and Silvia Duran, November 26, 1963, CIA~~
~~#493.~~ She said, "Upon learning about the assassination

INDENT 5
SINGLE
SPACE

Ed. make sure
this is a correct
copy of relevant portion 196
of ~~the~~ statement - V -

Indent 5 - single space

she
~~Silvia Duran~~ and her husband speculated that President Kennedy might have been assassinated for racial reasons. When she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man who approximately two months prior had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an intransit visa to Russia. Having taken his name from the special documentation he presented she knew that he was married to a Russian woman and belonged to the "Fair Play for Cuban Committee." She checked the data in the Consulate archives and became certain that it was the same individual who was blonde, short, dressed unelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. The Consul had denied the visa because to obtain an intransit visa from the Cuban government, it was imperative that he previously obtain a visa from the Soviet Consulate. Since obtaining a visa from the Soviets took four months and Oswald's Mexican visa expired soon, Oswald became excited and Duran had to call the Consul who had an argument with him. The only aid she could give Oswald was advising that he see the Soviet Consul, and calling the person in charge of that office. The Soviet official told her that they would have to consult Moscow which would take four months. That afternoon, Oswald returned to the Cuban Consulate and Silvia Duran confirmed that he could get a Cuban visa only after he received a Russian visa. She gave Oswald her name

Indent - 55

and business phone number but never gave him her address because she had no reason to give it to him. She knew that phoning the Soviet Consulate was not one of her duties and that if she did so she did it only to help Oswald. She gave Oswald her business phone number only because he would have to call subsequently to check whether he had obtained a visa. He never called

back."

97

16-8

67

on
Silvia Duran was released November 24, 1963,
re-arrested November 27, 1963, when the Mexican go-
vernment alleged that she was attempting to leave Mexico
for travel to Havana. ⁶⁹⁸ * (Cable from Mexico City Station
to Headquarters, November 27, 1963, MEMI 7101, CIA #493.)

According to the Mexican officials who detained Duran a
second time, there was no addition to her story. ⁶⁹⁹ * (Cable
from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, December 12, 1963,
MEMI 7264, CIA No. 554-558.)

The Mexico City Station forwarded Duran's ten-page
signed statement to headquarters on November 27, 1963. ⁷⁰⁰ *
(Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 27,
1963, MEMI 7105, CIA No. 479, Chronology of Anne Goodpasture,
November 27, 1963, entry no. 127, CIA No. 656.) The
following day, Headquarters sent a clarification cable to
the Mexico City Station seeking to insure that neither

Silvia Duran nor the Cubans would have a basis for con-
~~firming~~ that the Americans were behind her rearrest. ^{NY} BELIEVING

The cable stated, "We want the Mexican authorities to
take the responsibility for the whole affair." ⁷⁰¹ * (Cable

from Headquarters to the Mexico City Station, November
27, 1963, MEMI 7106, CIA No. 464, Chronology of Anne
Goodpasture, Nov. 28, 1963, WX 7241, entry no. 141, CIA
No. 658.)

When the Central Intelligence Agency began to
work with the Warren Commission, Headquarters cabled
the Mexico City Station that ^{to} their plan in passing in-
formation to the Warren Commission was to eliminate men-
tion of telephone taps in order to protect their con-
tinuing operations. ⁷⁰² (CIA Cable from Headquarters to

Mexico City Station, December 21, 1963, MEMI 90406, CIA
No. 579, Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, December 21,
1963, entry no. 268, CIA No. 682) Headquarters cabled

that ^{the} they would rely on Silvia Duran's statements and on
the Consular files which the Soviets gave the State De-
partment. ⁷⁰³ * (Cable); Headquarters stressed that exact,

detailed information from LITAMIL-7 and LITAMIL-9--pene-
tration agents in the Cuban Embassy--on what Silvia Du-
ran and other officials ^{had} said about Oswald's visits and
his dealings would be valuable and usable corroborative